Dog and Man

Hv1709
S

M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY
AMERICAN PRINTING
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

C.1

OFFICERS

....

Mrs. Harrison Eustis
President
Harry W. Harrison
First Vice-President
Elliott S. Humphrey
Vice-President, Division
for Training and Research
†Morris S. Frank
Vice-President,
Division for the Blind
James H. Perkins
Treasurer
W. H. Ebeling
Secretary and
Assistant Treasurer

....

ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Richard L. Morris
Chairman, Executive Committee

Edward E. Allen
*Reginald L. G. Auchincloss
*Mrs. Conard Berens
Mrs. Henry Breckinridge
*Henry A. Colgate
*Herman J. Cook
F. Trubee Davison
*Mrs. William K. Draper
†Mrs. Elford Eddy
*Mrs. Donald M. Forgan
*Agnes Fowler
*Talbot O. Freeman
*Artemus L. Gates
*Lewis Gawtry
*Frances S. Hoppin
Mrs. John Hubbard
Huger W. Jervey
*Mrs. Jan Juta
†Helen Keller
Eduard C. Lindeman
Wilton Lloyd-Smith
*Caroline L. Morgan
Mrs. S. Neustadt
James H. Perkins
*Douglas Robinson
Theodore Douglas Robinson
Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt
Herbert L. Satterlee
John M. Wheeler, M. D.
William Holland Wilmer, M. D.
Frederick T. van Beuren, Jr., M. D.

*Executive Committee
†Blind

Col. Morris S. Frank
and Buddy Fortunate Fields

Since this booklet was written, it has been found that the scope of the work in America must be greater than at first anticipated. The preparation of the dog as a guide is the key to the larger field of activity which is only being realized - that of bringing a blind person into his normal and rightful place in a Seeing World. We are therefore no longer thinking so much in terms of the dog, the key, but rather in terms of the service which The Seeing Eye must render; not the fraction, but the whole.

HV1709
S
copy one

THE SEEING EYE

INCORPORATED

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

REHABILITATION OF THE BLIND
THROUGH THE USE OF DOG GUIDES
SCIENCE — RESEARCH

MRS. HARRISON EUSTIS, PRESIDENT
HARRY W. HARRISON, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
ELLIOTT S. HUMPHREY, VICE-PRESIDENT
DIVISION FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
*MORRIS S. FRANK, VICE-PRESIDENT
DIVISION FOR THE BLIND
W. H. EBELING, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

*BLIND

Buddy Fortunate Fields

This book has been prepared in answer to the many demands for information about Dogs as Guides for the Blind and their instruction at » The Seeing Eye «, Morristown, New Jersey, U. S. A. and » l'Oeil qui Voit, « Vevey, Switzerland, the schools using the Fortunate Fields methods.

COPYRIGHT, 1932
THE SEEING EYE, INC

DOG AND MAN

BUDDY has signed my Declaration of Independence," exclaimed Col. Morris Frank, joyfully, as he landed in New York one June day in 1928 from Fortunate Fields, above Vevey, Switzerland. Blind for four years, he had gone from his home in Nashville, Tennessee, to **Fortunate Fields** to study the question of the dogs that guide the blind and to be trained with one. Since then he and his dog guide Buddy have been inseparable companions. Gone is the feeling of isolation now that Buddy is always beside him because she wants to be, not because she has to be. She has banished his sense of dependence on others because, with her at his side, he can go wherever he wants. Gone is the feeling of loneliness because with Buddy he need only be alone when he wants to be alone; there is no more enforced loneliness.

Six months previously a friend of Col. Frank had read to him an article in the Saturday Evening Post entitled **"The Seeing Eye"** by Dorothy Harrison Eustis which told of the work being done in Germany by the dogs that guide the blind and the independence that these dogs were bringing to their masters. Immediately there came to him the desire to study this work and to prove it for himself in order to make it possible for other blind people in America to have dog guides.

He set to work at once and put his desire into action by getting in touch with Mrs. Eustis. He found that instead of being a writer of magazine articles she was doing the work of which she wrote. With his mind made up he sailed eastward on his quest.

It needed some one of Col. Frank's pluck and spirit to make that trip to Switzerland. In fulfillment of his vision he stepped off the boat

on his return into a wholly new field of active service—that of bringing Independence to thousands of blind men and women in America.

For months he tested out his dog in different large cities, under varying traffic conditions, controlled and uncontrolled, on highways and country roads, in trolley cars and railway trains. It was an acid test for both dog and man as, since his blindness, he had never walked alone. But it was the proof he wanted. He was ready to speak from experience.

The romance of this young man seeking his freedom through the devotion and intelligence of a dog was so appealing that not many months had passed before demands began coming in as to how and where such dogs could be had.

It was natural that he should turn to Fortunate Fields for the solution. **Fortunate Fields, Inc.,** is Mrs. Harrison Eustis' breeding and training station where, for the past ten years she has been carrying on the scientific experiment of breeding the German Shepherd Dog for intelligence and educating this intelligence. She says "I want you to see the Shepherd as I see him; as a Niagara of energy going to waste, as an intelligence waiting to be used intelligently, as a public servant and a useful citizen." To illustrate this idea Fortunate Fields has developed the patrol dog service for the Swiss State Police, the Swiss Customs, the Italian Metropolitan Police and the Penitentiaries of New York and Pennsylvania, the messenger dog service for the Swiss Army and last, but most important of all, for the service of guides for those who are blind.

Mrs. Harrison Eustis

At Col. Frank's call for help she reorganized her work so that she could give all her time to this last service, and in 1929 she and Col. Frank founded **The Seeing Eye, Inc.** as a center where dog guides could be formed and where questions relating to the blind could be studied.

It was no mean task that these two set for themselves. Col. Frank, who had just finished his course of studies at Vanderbilt University, devoted himself to questions pertaining to the blind; Mrs. Eutis'

talents lent themselves to the administration of the affairs of The Seeing Eye and the shaping of its policy. In work such as this there can be no hit or miss basis. Each dog that goes out from The Seeing Eye must be as competent in the execution of its task as is reasonably possible. Undaunted by the lack of instructors to do this careful work, she founded a school for instructors in Vevey, Switzerland, not far from Fortunate Fields, where an extraordinary system of teaching instructors and dogs has been worked out so that the instruction of all Seeing Eye dogs should be uniform. She raised the funds necessary to open the school in America. An inspiring public speaker, she spent four months of each year giving talks illustrated by a film in order that the public should know the dog guides and their field of service.

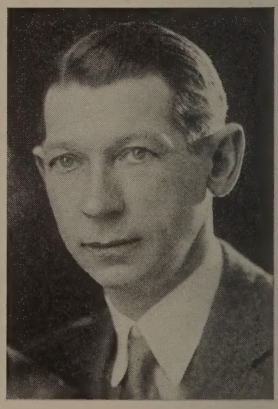
E. S. Humphrey

For five years Mrs. Eustis had had as manager of all breeding and research work, Mr. Elliott S. Humphrey, an expert in breeding livestock for particular qualities. In the years immediately preceeding his coming to Fortunate Fields he was best known as a horseman with the army during the war and for several years in charge of the U. S. Remount and Jocky Club Stallion Station at Avon, Genesee Valley, N. Y. Three times he rode in and finished the Three Hundred Mile Army Endurance Test, winning it once. Before these years, however, were years spent in the best schools of psychology in the world,—cowpunching in the western States; sightseeing guide to the tourists flocking to the wonders of California; trainer of wild animals for the circus acts owned by "Diamond Bill" Hall; breaker of "outlaw" horses at the Kansas City Stockyards. From the time he asked John Pierce, manager of the old Diamond Ranches of Wyoming if he needed a man and received the answer, "Sure, where's the man," his work took him from one round-up to another until he had worked cattle and horses in most of the western states. These were years of seeming wandering, yet years which taught the lesson that theories are no good unless they can be backed up by some pretty tangible reasoning and practical results or the theorist won't be alive to enjoy the results of his

theories about either animals or men. It often happens that a man may learn a lot—but that's as far as it goes. Fortunately the last years before the war, when Mr. Humphrey was manager of the Graham Scientific Breeding School, showed that he was as good a teacher as a student, he had the gift of being able to impart what he knew.

After the war he applied his breeding knowledge to dogs and, coming later to Fortunate Fields, he began an exhaustive study of the German Shepherd dog and built up a tabulation of bloodlines according to physical and mental qualities which exists nowhere else in the world for any breed. This made it possible for Fortunate Fields to develop a strain of Shepherds whose average intelligence reaches a higher level than heretofore known. When the call came from Col. Frank for an organization to carry out his vision, Mr. Humphrey took over, in addition to all his work in the field of breeding, the task of instructor-in-chief of the training department of the Seeing Eye and developed the methods used there not only for instructors and dogs, but for the blind while learning to use their dogs. Based on the systems in use at the German schools, it has been further developed to meet the greater demands on the dog in America.

The next man in the organization to come into the picture was Mr. Willi Ebeling. Retired from business, he was for years a student of Mr. Humphrey in the principles of breeding and carried on a breeding experiment with German Shepherds at his place, Lake Openaka, near Morristown, New Jersey. Becoming intensely interested in the service which he saw developing, he took a training course under Mr. Humphrey with a view to having general supervision of the work in America, including the "follow up" of the men and dogs after they have left the school. He made it possible in those early days, when The Seeing Eye had no headquarters, for instructors and dogs to come over from the school in Switzerland as he housed the instructors on his property and the dogs in his kennels. From then on all training in America was under his direction



W. H. Ebeling

in Morristown. As President of the German Shepherd Dog Club of New England and Editor of its magazine, The Shepherd Dog Review, he was able to put before a large public the aims of The Seeing Eye and to help in educating breeders of Shepherds and others to recognize the inherent qualities of intelligence, willingness, and protection which go to make up the Shepherd Dog; to advise them to breed for these rather than to put so much importance on beauty and show ring standards which, when adhered to, seem to result in many cases in the degeneration of intelligence and stamina.

Through his efforts it became generally known that the German Shepherd Dog (known as the Police Dog in America) carries no wolf blood, but instead is a self-respecting working dog, bred for centuries to tend sheep. Only the criminals of the breed reach notoriety! He pointed out that whereas the instinct of the terriers and the sporting dogs is to hunt, the Shepherd's desire is to protect and to serve man and his possessions; that they have a good allweather coat, that they are large enough and strong enough to do their work,

Seeing Eye Headquarters and a Group of Students in Training.

without being too clumsy or costly to maintain. It is because of these qualities, he explained, that the sheep-herding breeds, of which the German Shepherd is one, have proved the best for dog guide purposes.

While today Mr. Ebeling is officially Secretary-Treasurer of The Seeing Eye he is, because of his long experience in the business world and his thorough understanding and keen interest in the work, the Hub of Headquarters.

From the small beginning in 1929 dreamed by Morris Frank, created by Mrs. Eustis, made possible by Mr. Humphrey, and shepherded by Mr. Ebeling, there is now an efficient nucleus of instructors at Headquarters, and, in the field over a hundred dog guides leading an equal number of happy and contented people.

HEADQUARTERS

In the autumn of 1931, **The Seeing Eye's** three years of service were studied with the leading workers for the blind and the conclusion was reached that the experimental stage in America was over, that the dog guides formed a very important part in the rehabilitation of the adult blind and that action should be taken to make this service a permanent one. To this end the first step has been taken and an ideally suitable property has been acquired near Morristown, New Jersey. This move makes three things possible. It brings the administration of the division for the blind, formerly in Nashville, Tennessee, and the training division, always in Morristown, New Jersey, together; it makes room for an appreciable increase in the staff of the training division and it allows the housing of the blind masters during their period of instruction in the use of their dogs. Col. Frank has moved from Nashville and makes his home at Headquarters.

THE WORK

In its simplest form the work may be considered in its three main subdivisions.

1. Selection and education of suitable instructors. 2. Selection and education of suitable dogs. 3. Selection and education of those blind persons best suited physically and temperamentally to use dog guides.

1. The selection and education of the instructors is the most difficult part of the whole work. They must have the necessary mental equipment to assimilate the dog psychology which they are to be taught; then they must have the faculty of putting what they learn into practice in the actual instruction of the dogs, otherwise the work is done in the letter rather than in the spirit. To these qualities must be added the patience and ability to understand the blind, their point of view, and their limitations. For those destined to become head instructors there must be further added the faculty of being able to teach what they have learned.

It takes from two to three years to form a competent instructor, only about one out of ten succeeding and another two years to make a promising instructor into a head instructor.

2. The choice of the dogs for this work must be made carefully. Up to the present time only females are being used in America as they are kinder by nature, more eager to please and less inclined to be quarrelsome with other dogs than the males. They must be alert, active, interested and plucky. It is just as difficult to teach a sluggishly minded dog as a sluggishly minded person. They must be what is called "gun sure,"— in other words, not be frightened by the crack of a pistol. This test is not made because the dog may have to face a gun, but because the back-fire of a motor in the street will bring about the same effect. The dogs are obtained either by gifts from Fortunate Fields, whose dogs through years of selection have reached 95% of "teachability" or training temperament, as gifts from breeders of Shepherds in this country, or by purchase.

It takes about three months to form the dog as a guide and each month she must pass an examination as to her progress. Besides this the instructor must undergo what is called the "blindfold test," that is, he must, while blindfolded, work his dog through city traffic under the same conditions as those the blind master will encounter. Two or three blindfold tests are given during each dog's training and she must pass her final examination with high marks before she can be qualified as a dog guide.

3. The blind masters must also be carefully chosen as experience has shown that not every blind person can adapt himself to a dog guide. There are some who do not like dogs, others whose home conditions cannot include a dog, others whose temperaments do

not lend themselves to understanding dogs. It is estimated that about eight per cent of those who are blind can use dogs. There are 110,000 blind persons in the U. S. Of these, 10% are of school age and 60% are over fifty. Of the remaining 30%, 10% have additional physical handicaps, 10% fall into the category of those who do not like dogs, or cannot have dogs, leaving 10% as potential masters of dogs, or about 11,000!

It is absolutely essential that every master be taught how to use his dog. To this end, as each class of dogs graduates, a class for blind masters is held. These classes last a month and each master has the personal attention of the instructor who educated his dog. The masters receive full instruction in the use of their dogs under practical conditions in the streets of Morristown. They are taught how to take care of their dogs, how to brush and clean them; what and when to feed them, how to treat minor ailments and when to call a veterinarian.

THE DOG GUIDE

It is hard to believe, but the dog guide is educated to become her blind master's eyes. She does it by a system of signals which she is taught to convey to her master through the handle of her harness. Keeping a steady pull on the handle held in her master's left hand, she guides him around obstacles on the sidewalk such as barriers, manholes, pedestrians, etc. For curbs and steps she sits down close to the edge so that they can be found with the cane or foot. If the street is clear, she leads him carefully across, if not, she holds him on the sidewalk until the street is clear. If, while she is crossing, a motor approaches, she slows her pace to let it pass or she stops, only going on her way when it is safe. She knows the direction commands of "left," "right," and "forward" and it is by these commands that she is directed by her master to take him where he wants to go. Contrary to the general belief, a blind person has a fairly adequate mental picture of his own town. It may be a different picture from that of the seeing public but it serves him for his purposes; all he needs to make him independent is a guide to lead him through and about **his** picture.

There have been many faithful little dogs who have led their masters on one or two given routes, but not until the present method

Mr. D. S., Philadelphia, Pa.

of instruction was evolved has it been possible for a blind man to direct his dog to take him **wherever** he wants to go. He knows, for instance, that in order to get to a given destination he must, on leaving his house, turn to the right, go four or five blocks, whatever the case maybe, then turn left and go six blocks and that the entrance he seeks is thirty paces down the street on the right hand side. By the direction commands of "left," "right" and "forward" he directs his dog to take him there.

The secret of why the dog can do this is that she is not trained, she is **educated.** The dog division of the Seeing Eye is really a University for dogs where they specialize in learning how to be guides and only those who succeed in graduating are entrusted with a blind master. The education is based on the knowledge of how a dog thinks, or animal psychology, and through this knowledge the dog is taught to draw proper conclusions by herself. In other words, she must act on her own initiative.

Another factor that lends itself to success is that the Shepherd loves to work. Reliable and willing, to her, service is a pleasure and not a favor. Her master's hours are her's. Her main compensation is her master's utter reliance on her, and his affection for her. She is also an economical guide. She does not ask forty dollars a month plus lunches and carfare as a salary; it does not come within her scheme of things. Five dollars a month will satisfy her material wants and this is often less because of the butcher's kindness!

THE WORK YET TO BE DONE

With the experimental years behind it, **The Seeing Eye** now belongs to America. It is a vision realized and as such can be called a service station where those persons needing dog guides can get them regardless of creed or race.

It can readily be seen from the outline of the work that the expense of running such a philanthropic enterprise is very heavy. Mrs. Eustis remains the major subscriber, but now that the school is growing beyond the means of a few individuals, it must go before the Country for added support. The independence being achieved for those who are blind is far beyond anything that can be reckoned in dollars and cents, but unfortunately, dollars and cents must be talked before the independence can be brought about!

Three ways have been devised to make this independence possible. The cost of the graduate dog f.o.b. Headquarters is $300.00. The master's board, lodging and tuition while learning to use his dog, come to $75.00. He who can afford it pays for his own dog, he who can pay only part, pays as much as he can, the rest being made up from the Fellowship Fund, to him who needs a dog, but is not at the moment in a position to pay anything, a full Seeing Eye Fellowship is offered. These Fellowships are for the full cost of the dog and the master's maintenance while taking training, i.e. $375.00 at Headquarters.

The actual cost to the school of supplying these dogs is nearly double the amount asked, but the loss to the school acts as a protection to the blind as it eliminates commercialism and the establishment of schools organized for profit.

That the dog guides graduated from The Seeing Eye are of inestimable value is beyond dispute. The records of the dogs now in

Five years of experience in operating the Fellowship Plan brought out features which made it advisable in February, 1934, to modify this plan. Most of our blind applicants misunderstood it. Many looked upon it as a gift. The basic thought behind the plan was to create a fund to assist blind students who, at the time of applying for a dog, were not in a position to pay all of the price asked. It was intended to be a loan which was to be repaid in accordance with their ability to earn and to repay. The majority of our students do not want charity; we do not intend to practice it. But we do want to make dogs available to blind men and women unable to pay in full at the time of applying. Our service does create mental, physical and eventually an economic freedom and our students will therefore want to make their contribution in amounts commensurate with their earning ability.

The former price proved too high. Most of our students could not see how to repay the amount during the life of the dog. We have, therefore, decided to reduce the cost to our students to $150.00, including equipment, tuition, and maintenance at Headquarters. When necessary, this amount may still be distributed over a period not exceeding three years and upon terms to be agreed upon to suit the circumstances of each individual.

We are pleased to make this additional contribution further to facilitate the economic freedom of our students.

daily use speak for themselves. An example of this is eloquently set forth in a letter from Mr. Gilbert Newell printed in full at the end of this book, as well as letters from well-known workers for the blind which are also included.

There are various ways in which those who are interested can help. For instance, men's clubs and women's clubs could in recognition of a member or as a memorial subscribe Fellowships for those blind in their state who need dogs. Welfare organizations could vote grants towards this work of rehabilitation as they do for other humanitarian needs. Boarding schools and day schools could include The Seeing Eye as one of their philanthropic projects. Individuals to whom the dog and his master make a special appeal can and do contribute annual support, Fellowships and donations toward Fellowships. For those who may not be able to afford contributions of money there remains the contribution of dogs of suitable age and temperament or the bringing up of a puppy to school age (14 months). The Seeing Eye has many offers of puppies, but no one who will raise them to school age in private homes.

Mr. F. G., Lancaster, Pa.

Again for those who may not be able to contribute immediately there lies the means to insure the permanency of the work through bequests to its Endowment Fund by will or insurance policy.

The Seeing Eye, Inc. is in a position to receive any or all of these means of support as it is a chartered organization under the laws of the State of New Jersey. All contributions are deductible from the income tax.

The Seeing Eye has come into being through the qualities of intelligence, fidelity and love which are the dog's. Without them it could not have been done; with them it has been possible to bring new horizons, new worlds to those who are blind.

For centuries the blind have been considered as a people apart. Today it is becoming better understood that because a man's physical world is darkness, it needn't change his soul or his individuality. To these fellow countrymen, handicapped by the loss of sight, comes the dog to lift this handicap in so far as she is able. Quite simply and gladly she gives of what she has,— her sense of companionship in work and play, her understanding in times of stress, her protection in moments of danger, her guidance, and always her unqualified, undivided devotion.

Is this great fund of happiness and health not to reach its new goal?

Here we have three pictures, the dog; those who are blind; independence. Let us make them one. With the heart, intelligence and devotion of the dog put at their disposal, the blind of today need be no longer segregated, no longer apart, but men and women seeking to be themselves, to live their own lives, and standing ready for this step to independence.

Please join with us in making this step possible.

"And feel, who have laid our groping hands away
And see, no longer blinded by our eyes."

Mr. A. G. and Mr. R. B., Allentown, Pa.

APPRECIATIONS

THE LETTER FROM MR. NEWELL

Dear Mr. Ebeling:

Your welcome letter makes me think of the return of the Bible prodigal, so Hebe and I have killed the fatted calf and are ready to place the ring on your finger.

Now I know you want to hear about my dog, Miss Hebe. Believe me there is a lot that could be said, but the whole story could be summed up by saying that The Great Creator made Hebe and then the mold got lost. What I mean is that there never was another dog like her and I seriously doubt if there ever will be another. She is so nearly perfect at work and at play that no one but an utter fool could find fault with her. Before her coming, my life was a living h—. By her devoted service she has more than made life worth living and is gradually making my life worth while from the standpoint of others. We are both so content and happy that it does others good to see us. Especially so here, where all know how deep in despair I was a little over a year ago and also three years ago.

Now here are some absolutely correct figures to support the above assertion On the twenty-second of last month, October, I had been in G— ten months. For the ten months I averaged a slight fraction over four miles of walking with Hebe every day. Counting thirty days to the month it gives us a grand total of TWELVE HUNDRED MILES. Counting an average of ten street intersections to the mile, we made TWELVE THOUSAND STREET CROSSINGS without mishap or hardly a misstep. As more than eighty-five per cent of our walking was done in the heavy traffic of the down town sections, I think our traveling a fine record as do all others here who see us daily making our way about the streets. Yes, and here are some more facts that speak for themselves; During the entire ten months we only failed to go walking on six days. Three of these days was on account of bad weather and the other three can be charged up to my laziness. Hebe has not had one single day of sickness since I have had her and neither had I up until about ten days ago.

From the time I took Hebe from her crate here at home, she has never been away from my side except for two hours while I attended a funeral. The theater managers here won't allow Hebe in the shows so I haven't been to a theater in nearly a year. I have also sacrificed lots of other things to always have her with me, but her devotion and service make up for it all. Anyway I find Hebe about the best company possible and don't care to go places where she is not welcome. All in all this pal guide of mine is so wonderful that I sometimes catch myself

wondering what in the devil I ever did in my somewhat checkered career of life to merit such compensation.

Now before you gather the idea that Miss Hebe and I are a couple of wingless angels walking around in heaven, I better slip you the news that we have our ups and downs, but so far no downs and outs.

First I want to get you told that, although Hebe is naturally a healthy animal, she has plenty of devoted care to keep her at her best. In the daytime, she is either working with me on the street or we sit in our large back lot where she can romp and play as much as she wants. At night she sleeps by my bedside and if I happen to turn over in my sleep I feel her big head peep up on the bed to see that all is well. I'm told that Hebe's teeth are as white as ivory, being kept so by the bones I give her.

I curry and brush her twice a day and brush her again at bedtime. She has on her winter coat now and I am told she is about the most beautiful thing that you could ever hope to see. Her hair is as soft as velvet and shines like silk. More than once I have been asked just what kind of preparation I use to keep her hair in such fine shape, but the truth is that I use nothing but good food, exercise and hard brushing.

Just take it from me that It would do your heart good to see this Hebe girl in action now. Lordy, Lordy, the way she can fly down the street, missing pedestrians, holes in the street and all that makes up perfect training. Must be wonderful to see for it's a grand and glorious feeling to be guided by her. Every day it becomes more pleasant to be with her in traffic, for it is there she shines the most. She obeys commands as naturally as though she had already read my mind and sometimes I think that maybe she does know what I want by the expression of my face or actions. We have so adjusted our step that it is almost no effort to travel long distances without tiring. We travel as fast now as we did at Morristown, but as we step together, it lessens the strain. My nerves are as steady as a good clock, so Hebe has little to worry about in that way. She knows that when she pulls to the right or left that I'm going with her instantly.

Well, Mr. Ebeling, I must close now. I have tried in this letter to tell you what a wonderful dog Miss Hebe really is, but I know words can't express her real self. What you have to do is see her work and that's what you're going to do some of these days, even if I have to walk a thousand miles to show her to you.

Sincerely your friend,

GILBERT.

GUIDE DOGS IN PLACEMENT

By G. E. Ward, Supervisor, Lehigh County Branch
Pennsylvania Association for the Blind

As we review the entire handicap of blindness, and endeavor to subdivide it into its various digits, we find that two points stand out phenomenally: the inability of a blind person to read, and the inability of a blind person to move about with sufficient ease and safety to make locomotion practical. From entirely

an economical standpoint, the latter of these two phases is the more inconvenient. A brief study of successful blind people will show that those who have acquired the ability to move from place to place are more likely to be in the fore.

When we were first approached on the question of dogs as guides for blind people, it is but fair to own that we were not at all familiar with the abilities of dogs, and were just a little skeptical. The question seemed to hinge largely around the possibility of the dog being more trouble than the service he could render would be worth. On December nineteenth, 1931, three blind men arrived in Allentown from Morristown, N. J. with trained guide dogs and for a little more than three months these dogs have been under our careful and interested observation. In two of the three instances just mentioned, the dogs have acquitted themselves with such conclusive satisfaction, that we have gone through a period of great revelation. In the third case we know that there was some deep seated cause which has rendered the guide dog not as useful to its master as it is in the other two cases, but we hope that this trouble may be sifted out and corrected shortly.

It takes but an instant's thought to bring to light the problems of a totally blind man in the candy-vending machine business which we have in Allentown, or the totally blind salesman. There was a day when we had such a salesman in this community, and doubtless that day will come again. Our experience proved conclusively that the great handicap in the case of our blind salesman was guide. In fifteen months of ceaseless effort, this problem was never adequately solved. The Guide Dog would have been the answer. It is a fact that our men with their dogs are able to cover the entire city at a pace equivalent to an average sighted person's speed.

Only today, a very estimable gentleman remarked to me that the dogs must be worth their weight in gold to their sightless owners. The dogs cannot possibly be measured with the financial yard stick. To say that a guide dog is worth her weight in gold is the same thing as saying that one's eyes are worth their weight in gold.

Two of our men possessing dogs have no homes and no family on whom to rely. They are, therefore, utterly dependent on their dog guides. One of these never traveled alone in the city until he procured a dog, and the other traveled short distances with a slowness to the Nth degree, and facing hazards of the street which are too great to ask any man to face save in cases of dire necessity; and, it is to be noted emphatically, that these hazards of the street and highways are increasing annually.

It seems to us that the guide dogs do these things or their blind masters: it releases them from a sentence of confinement which circumstances have undeservedly cast as their lot; it raises them tenfold in the possibilities of a successful economic struggle for life; and it does yet another thing which many have overlooked. The human race as a race is a lover of dogs. Dogs possess qualities which many of their masters would do well to acquire. Because of this love for dogs, a blind person with a guide dog is given a wonderful opportunity to make contacts and friends which he could not have made without the interposition of his

guide. It is a fact that our candy-vending machine man, time and time again since being in possession of his Guide Dog, has gone back to prospective location for machines who have turned him away, and, through the interest and good will created by the guide dog has wedged his way to a new and profitable location. Two hours a day is more time than a blind person would need to give his dog the attention it requires. We have experienced the waiting of two weeks for a human guide.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF WELFARE
COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND
HARRISBURG

March 23, 1932

Dear Mr. Ebeling:

You will remember, I think, that I first became interested in the work of the guide dogs about three years ago, and that this interest culminated in the sponsorship of a training class in Harrisburg in the fall of 1929 by the Pennsylvania State Council for the Blind. It was at this time that I got my own dog, Kara.

As a result of my own experience, I have been tremendously interested in seeing that every possible opportunity should be given to suitable blind persons in this State to learn about, and become interested for themselves, in the use of one of these guides.

Through the whole-hearted cooperation of the "Seeing Eye" it has been possible for nineteen Pennsylvanians to secure nineteen such guides during the past two years. I have kept in close touch with the work done by each of the dogs, and in every single instance she has done much more than serve as a pair of eyes for her master. I do not know of a single case in which the faithful use of a guide dog by her owner has not resulted in certain physical changes, changes of attitude and improvement of morale, which are striking.

In practically all cases where one of the objectives sought was the economic advantage of the owner, this has followed within a comparatively short time. In most cases, too, the use of the guide dog by the blind member of the family has resulted in freeing other members of the family from a certain anxiety over the safety of their handicapped relative. The independence which the guide dog assures has in several cases been the deciding factor in the solution of difficult family adjustments.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the properly trained guide dog, correctly adjusted to her new master or mistress, has gone far to solve one of the most complicated and difficult problems of the blind,— the problem of going from one place to another unaided and in safety, and free from any nerve strain.

Very cordially yours,
S. MERVYN SINCLAIR,
Executive Director.

PERKINS INSTITUTE
AND MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND

EDWARD E. ALLEN, Director Emeritus

March 8 1932

Dear Mr. Frank:

The account of the dog guidance of blind individuals in Germany, which — a few years ago — introduced me to the subject, implanted in me the vision of what the Seeing Eye movement might lead to in America; and I gave it my interest from the first. Then when I saw the training pictures and heard Mrs. Eustis describe it all I was convinced that here was not only a good but also a much needed service. Finally when I noted how you and others went about fearlessly and independently, accompanied only by a knowing canine friend trained to be your servant, I felt that a new instrumentality had come into the lives of some of our people that would relieve them from many an embarrassment commonly going with blindness, the embarrassment of dependence upon not always willing human beings for many of the little movements which most of us wish to make and need to enjoy without the feeling of having to ask for them.

I trust that The Seeing Eye movement will continue to scatter its blessings far and near.

Yours very truly,
EDWARD E. ALLEN.

I AM A GRADUATE OF THE SEEING EYE, Inc.

Over one hundred of us have signed our Masters' Declaration of Independence
I and my education cost $300.00

To teach my master how to use me, including his board and lodging during this period, $75.00

I can make a blind man self-supporting

WHAT PART OF ME WILL YOU GIVE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE?

Heart and Soul	$100.00	Security	$50.00	Understanding	$20.00
Loyalty, Fidelity	75.00	Courage	25.00	Ability	15.00
	Willingness	$10.00		The Harness	$5.00

WHY NOT GIVE ALL OF ME AS A FELLOWSHIP—$375.00

Please make cheque payable to The Seeing Eye, Inc., Morristown, New Jersey

HV1709
S
c.1

DOG AND MAN.

Date Due			